



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

## Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting – Saturday, 14 June 2025

(Last updated – 14 June 2025)

**Venue:** HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba | **Time:** 10.00am (approx.)

### 1. Meeting started at: 10am

### 2. Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea provided

- a. Attendees:
  - i. Physical: Frank Ondrus, Miriam Sharp and Kerry Kruger
  - ii. ZOOM: Anna Kula-Kaczmariski, Andrew Nicholson, Charmaine Turnbull and Renuka Sarathbhavan
- a. Apologies: Nil
- b. Proxy votes: Nil

### 3. Social media and website tracker report

- Charmaine and social media team received advice from Kay Rana re social media writing styles which have now been implemented. X statistics provided by Shuri show increased engagement with X account.  
→ Monster Insights of web statistics and X statistics will be sent to the management team following the meeting  
→ Office Manager to invite more of our volunteers to join HOPE Inc. on LinkedIn.  
→ Office Manager to also invite our members to submit personal “environmental” photos and/or videos for posting.  
→ Office Manager to ask existing volunteers if anyone would be interested in making video content for us  
→ Ask Shuri and Charmaine to collect ‘key words’ from our most popular posts to identify our ‘pillars’ and optimise search for HOPE’s website and social media accounts.

### 4. President’s Report

- 2<sup>nd</sup> university student placement – spoke to Laura Little by phone on 13 June 2025 to further discuss project proposal; and supervisory roles – both from the university and Andrew Nicholson being our liaison contact. Formal first project meeting up will be held on 25 June with Anna and Andrew, then monthly with support from Andrew as required.
- Fund-raising exercise – The Management Committee has agreed to issue a series of 3 emails prepared by Meet Karan Rana. → Office Manager to issue emails during the remainder of June.

### 5. Office Manager’s quarterly report

- Summary of key statistics:
  - 3 Newsletters produced
  - 11 Media Releases issued
  - 4 Feature Articles/Reports circulated
  - Grant applications – pending and current
    - 1 successful, 1 unsuccessful
  - Sponsorship matters:
    - 6/5/25 – Letter sent to University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) → Unsuccessful (2/6/25)
    - 9/5/25 – Letter sent to Westpac, Toowoomba re: Project funding → Awaiting written response
  - Volunteer movement – 8 new; and 11 lapsed!
- Key matters:

- Good level of support for Special Edition Newsletters with 3 ready to be published and 4 more in development
- 29/04 Paid 2<sup>nd</sup> 'copyright infringement' fine of \$1,045.80 à *That's a total of \$1,653.80 for 2 fines this year!*
- 28-30/04 Received a total of \$5,000 in donations to HOPE Gift Fund

## 6. Treasurer's Report:

<b>Opening balance as at 7 February 2025</b>	<b>= \$2,539.82</b>
HOPE General Account balance as at 31 May 2025	= \$2,616.76
HOPE Gift Fund balance as at 31 May 2025	= \$5,332.41
<b>Closing balance as at 31 May 2025</b>	<b>= <u>\$7,949.17</u></b>

## 7. General business

- Carried forward items from Ordinary Meeting of 8 February 2025
  - Actions completed:
    - Issued 'stock image' list to Admin Support Team → *Done 11/02/25*
    - Monthly statistics on website traffic to be generated automatically → *Done*
    - Encourage members of Admin Support Team and our envNGO network to contribute posts to our Social media platforms → *Done*
    - Review of government responses re Abandoned mines in their respective jurisdictions → *Report prepared - 4 March 2025*
  - Actions still pending:
    - Report from President re Tracking progress of Strategic Plan matters (see draft attachment) → *President to update following each quarterly meeting and submit for posting on website*
    - Proposed 'ZOOM' interview of our Patron – Jerry Coleby-Williams → *Reassigned to Andrew Nicholson. → Check with Jerry C-W late August/early September re: suitable date and time to conduct ZOOM interview.*
    - Progress made in implementing consultant's suggested improvements to Social Media and Website management practices → *Completed items 'ticked off' on input documents*
    - Updating of Ecological Footprint PPT (by Lizzie Pennington) – *in progress*
    - Delivery of 2 FREE drone flyers for Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba (by Ben Sparshott) – *awaiting dates from FEP personnel*
    - Review of responses from Australian universities re their environmental policies → *Assign to researcher*
    - Prepare 'specially themed' editions of newsletter → *3 editions already published*
    - Continue chasing sponsorships → *with a focus on finding a financial benefactor*
      - Anna's keen to send letters to the remaining Queensland universities with offer of student placement within our agency.
      - Anna to draft sponsorship request to BAA.
      - Frank to send sponsorship request to Westpac HQ.
    - Request for help with Membership and Volunteer Management issued in Office Update (28/03/25) → *No responses to date. Parts of these roles could be done by current volunteers - Frank to approach local volunteers regarding these positions.*
    - Report on Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) event 2025
      - Received \$345.85 in cash donations mainly from raffle and sale 'Weeds' magazine, proposed to continue these in future events.
    - Westpac bank accounts → *Slow progress changing to debit card and online banking access. Awaiting further appointment with bank to finalise paperwork.*
      - ➔ *HOPE General Account banking changes approved (23 March 2025)*
      - ➔ *HOPE Gift Fund banking changes approved (15 May 2025)*
      - 13/06/25 – *Still awaiting linkage of HOPE Gift Fund to HOPE general account*

- Grants/Projects – current & proposed:
  - Current grants:
    - Purchase 2 laptops; and the upgrade of our website – 31/11/24 - *submitted online grant application to QLD Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)*
      - ➔ *Unsuccessful (7 May 2025). Investigate a GoFundMe option to purchase 2 new laptops.*
      - ➔ *Withdraw interest in seeking funding to upgrade website as Website Administrator and Office Manager have made substantial improvements to the site – [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)*
    - Governance training ➔ 29/11/24 - *Submitted online application to Qld Gives*
      - ➔ *Successful (28 April 2025)*
      - ➔ *Grant monies received (28/04), course booked for 18-19/12/25 and paid on 06/06/25*
  - Development of booklet & podcasts of male “Environmental Champions of our Region”
    - ➔ 29/11/24 – *Submitted Eol to Judith Neilson Institute Grants ➔ Issued further request on 8 Mar 2025 ➔ No response received to date*
    - ➔ 18/01/25 - *Investigate Home - Australian Communities Foundation; and/or a Go Fund Me platform ➔ No response received to date*
    - ➔ 10/06/25 – *Submitted online application to Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)*
  - Current projects:
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> University Student Placement – re: [Co-building a new eco-social world: leaving no one behind.](#) *Already discussed in President’s report.*
    - Andrew’s podcast series entitled “A preferred future by 2040: credible pathways toward a life-enhancing community in South East Queensland”
      - ➔ *Andrew proposes to produce 4 pilot podcasts to promote the larger 3-year project. Supported by all attending. Andrew to update at next Ordinary meeting.*
        - The four podcast themes are:
          - The value of art-science nature connectedness storytelling to achieve better environmental protections in more flourishing futures
          - The value of strategic system level reforms and civic push back against powerful vested interests in order to achieve more flourishing futures.
          - The value of incorporating public participation in decision making on built environment and infrastructure development to help create more flourishing futures.
          - The value of the NFP sector working on higher level leverage points (e.g. worldview assumptions) to achieve more effective advocacy outcomes for environmental protection and more flourishing futures

*Motion: To engage Andrew Nicholson as the contractor to undertake the 4-pilot podcast exercise at the reduced cost of \$1,100.*

➔ *Moved Frank Ondrus, Seconded by Kerry Kruger. Agreed by all present.*

➔ *Office Manager to arrange publicity and promotion via press, social media and website.*

- Other business:
  - The GM Free Australia Alliance appears to not actually have any member groups. Therefore, I think we should reconsider their Alliance/Partnership membership.

8. **Next ordinary meeting** – 14 September 2025

9. **Meeting closed at:** 11.32am



**Kerry Kruger (Secretary)**



**Anna Kula-Kaczmarek (President)**

14 June 2025